

Bush River Community Council

June 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The fourth meeting of the Bush River Community Council (BRCC) was called to order by the Chairman, John Paff, at 6:35 p.m. in the Anita C. Leight Estuary conference room on June 20, 2011. Maryland Senator Nancy Jacobs, Maryland Delegate Glen Glass and Harford County Councilwoman Mary Ann Lisanti, Representatives from the Southern Sheriff's Office Precinct and the Harford County Sheriff's Office were present. Council Board members in attendance were Chairman John Paff, Glenn Dudderar, Larry Carmichael, Randy Conlon, Kathleen Leary and Mary Starks. Harry Webster and Carolyn Shea were absent. Approximately 25 members of the Bush River community attended.

The representatives from the Sheriff's Office presented the current monthly reported crime statistics with 13,164 year- to- date calls for service in all of Harford County with 1,162 specifically in the Perryman, Riverside and Churchville Sector (Sector 20). Calls for our sector included: 10 assaults, 6 burglaries, 1 motor vehicle theft, and 14 thefts. Most crime reports (40%) occurred between 4:00 pm and midnight; 37% occurred between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm; and 23% from midnight to 8:00 am. The number of service calls for the same period last year was 13,322 for all of Harford County and 1,354 for Sector 20. They reminded us to use the www.harfordsheriff.org or CrimeReports.com to access more detailed crime statistics for individual neighborhoods. A concern was raised about a suspicious residence in a Bush River community with cars arriving and leaving frequently after dark. The Sheriff Deputy requested that everyone report any suspicious behavior like this even though there is no other evidence of possible drug activity. Another concern was raised about fireworks around the river on the 4th of July weekend. The Sheriff's office will address the illegal use of fireworks as they encounter it with the understanding that more serious crime and threats to safety would have priority for their limited manpower resources. They left copies of pamphlets regarding drugs: Heroin, Methamphetamine Labs, Cocaine/Crack Cocaine, Khat (Catha Edulis), and a Crime Prevention Checklist for attendees to pick up after the meeting.

Councilwoman Listani discussed the extension to Cedarday Lane and described the dissension from various residents. The plan to extend that road to Rte 136 has been approved since the 1980's, but has been stalled by slower than expected development in that area and scarce funding. The extension has been reapproved and funded. She impressed upon the community the need for careful scrutiny of those projects in the Master Land Use Plan which affect the Bush River area since it forms the basis for change to the community. The question of impact fees was raised: one of the considerations when approving housing development plans for undeveloped land is whether there is a need to add an impact fee to the cost of selling new housing for that project. That fee would contribute to the cost of infrastructure required to sustain a new development in the county. The County Council will have an abbreviated schedule over the summer since it has accomplished and passed the budget.

Senator Nancy Jacobs discussed the status of her efforts to reverse the proposed toll hike for the Hatem Bridge over the Susquehanna River connecting Harford and Cecil Counties. The toll hike is very expensive because it replaces the local ADI commuter decal (\$10 per year) with EZ Pass (\$72 per year for transponder equipment, plus \$25 minimum to be placed in the account and \$1.50 per month). Non-commuters would pay \$8 for a car, an increase of \$3.00 to cross the bridge, and Tractor Trailers and a car with a small boat trailer, small campers and and/or trailers would pay \$27 this year increasing to \$36 next year. Senator Jacobs encouraged participation at town hall style meetings being held by the Maryland Department of Transportation to address concerns about the toll hike. The last meeting was

attended by 1200 citizens with 200 turned away because of fire safety capacity. The next meeting is in the Havre de Grace Activity Center on June 27 at 6:00 pm with a rally beginning at 5:00 pm. Come early and sign up if attendees would like to speak. She believes progress is being made because citizens are speaking out.

Ms. Karen Holt, Harford County Base Realignment and C (BRAC) Manager whose position in the county is funded by DoD, gave an extensive briefing on what the county has accomplished with the DoD BRAC funding (\$7.8M) it has received. The purpose of the BRAC is not just to save money, but to reconfigure mission locations so as to provide the most efficient and effective support to the military soldiers and war fighters. Only studies can be funded with the funding – no construction. Twenty-six studies have been conducted on the three areas of priority for the BRAC office: Transportation, (includes rail, shuttle, bus, car pool, van pool, roads), Workforce/Education, and Infrastructure (including health care and safety, and law enforcement. She provided statistics compiled by cooperation and agreements among APG, towns and counties affected by the influx of an added 8,500 civilian jobs, from 7,500-10,000 indirect jobs (DoD contractors) and an estimated 28,000 support/infrastructure jobs in the non-DoD economy (insurance, education, retail, police/fire, etc). To date 5,300 personnel have moved with their jobs to APG (Aberdeen and Edgewood areas). By law, all moves must be completed by September 15, 2011. Some of the new missions include research, development, test and evaluation of satellite communication, unmanned vehicles, computer applications, military radios, communication electronics, and enhanced chemical/biological defense. To date, \$1 billion for construction has been received: The studies have narrowed the requirements to 5 intersections in the county, but all have not been funded. Only Route 40 and 715 is being prepared for construction at this point. Most of the recommendations for improved transportation have not been funded. Marc Train has altered its schedule to provide APG workers with a full 8 hour day. The Workforce/Education priority is by far the best positioned. Sixty defense contractors have moved into Harford County and there are more than 200,000 professional/technical workers available within a 60 minute commute to APG and 500,000 within a 90 minute commute. More information regarding BRAC and the status of this major impact on Harford County can be obtained at www.apg-cssc.com or contacting Ms Holt at klholt@harfordcountymd.gov or 410-273 5708. Her office is location in the HEAT Center, 1201 Technology Drive, Suite 109, Aberdeen, MD 21001. She provide all attendees with a copy of 2011 APG Maryland Welcome and Relocation Guide booklet...these are updated every 6 months.

Delegate Glen Glass introduced himself and offered assistance to the council in State Government issues. Delegate Glass is circulating a petition to move the bill on in-state tuition for children of illegal aliens to referendum – place it on the ballot for voters to decide. It is estimated that this bill if passed will cost Harford Community College at least \$3.6M per year. He is working with Senator Jacobs to reverse the proposed toll hike on the Hatem Bridge. Delegate Glass is the representative of Harford County Residents from Port Deposit east of I95 all the way to Joppatowne.

Ms. Ludwig from the Harford County Department of Water and Sewer presented a briefing on the Harford County water and sewer system and status of projects impacting the Bush River Community. All water and sewer main pipeline infrastructure runs through the development corridors along I95/Route 40 from Joppatowne to Havre de Grace and Route 24 from Edgewood to Bel Air and beyond. Water treatment plants in our area are in Abingdon and at the wells in Perryman and there is one in Havre de Grace. The main waste water treatment plant is also in Perryman, Sod Run, almost to the border of APG, Jarrettsville, Whiteford, and there is a smaller one in Joppatowne. The waste water treatment plants are operating well within legal requirements for limiting nitrogen and to comply with recent requirements are working to reduce phosphorous from 8 parts to 3 parts...also well below

the legal requirement. All waste treatment plants are monitored continually, reported and no bacteria emission is acceptable. Should there ever be a bacterial emission; letters would be sent to all residents on Bush River. A question was asked about septic systems. Many residents prefer to stay on their own septic systems due to perceived higher cost to convert to public water and sewer systems. Her office will work with residents to assist them in preparing a cost comparison between private septic and well water versus public systems. The average quarterly public water and sewer bill for Harford residents is \$120. The Bush Creek project to expand the size of the force main under the Bush River from Belcamp, Water Park Drive to Cannery Lane in Perryman will probably not begin this year as they are still awaiting easements. They will push 30 to 40 inch pipe 30 feet underground beneath the river, connecting the line along Route 40 with the Perryman Peninsula. The Maps presented were very helpful in understanding this important part of the infrastructure. The Department of Water and Sewer presents the status to the County Council every 6 months. More information is available at jkludwig@harfordcountymd.gov; 410-638-3370.

John Paff, Chairman of the Bush River Community Council announced that we would be sponsoring the Adopt- a- Park at Belcamp. He thanked the Anita C. Light representative for affording an outstanding venue for our meetings and encouraged all to make use of the wonderful Estuary Center. See www.otterpointcreek.org for description and activities. Mr. Paff said that the council will not meet again until September and thanked all for coming.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by:
Mary Starks
Secretary
Bush River Community Council